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8. (New) The method according to Claim 7 wherein said converting comprises:
processing a prolog of the XML document if one is present;
subsequent to processing the prolog, processing a body of the XML document; and,
subsequent to processing the body, processing an epilog of the XML document if one is
present.

9. (New) The method according to Claim 8 wherein:
processing the prolog includes:
retrieving a node from the prolog;
determining a type for the node;
subsequent to a determination that the node type is a processing instruction:
determining a target for the node;
determining an instruction for the node; and,
creating a row of the relational database that includes the identifier, the
sequence identifier for the node, an XML document name, the target, the node type, and the
instruction; and,
subsequent to a determination that the node type is a comment:
determining the comment; and,
creating a row of the relational database that includes the identifier, the
sequence identifier for the node, an XML document name, the comment, and the node type.

10. (New) The method according to Claim 9 further including incrementing the sequence

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identifier subsequent to creating the row of the relational database and repeating.

11. (New) The method according to Claim 8 wherein:

processing the epilog includes:

retrieving a node from the epilog;

determining a type for the node;

subsequent to a determination that the node type is a processing instruction:

determining a target for the node;

determining an instruction for the node; and,

creating a row of the relational database that includes the identifier, the sequence identifier for the node, an XML document name, the target, the node type, and the instruction; and,

subsequent to a determination that the node type is a comment:

determining the comment; and,

creating a row of the relational database that includes the identifier, the sequence identifier for the node, an XML document name, the comment, and the node type.

12. (New) The method according to Claim 11 further including incrementing the sequence identifier subsequent to creating the row of the relational database.

13. (New) The method according to Claim 8 wherein:

processing the body includes:

retrieving an XML element;

determining if the element is empty;

setting an empty element variable to a value based upon the determination; and,

creating a row of the relational database that includes the identifier, the sequence identifier for the node, and attributes of the element.

14. (New) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the attributes of the element include:
an element name, an attribute type, and an attribute value.

15. (New) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the row further includes the value of
the empty element variable, an ancestor and a parent.

16. (New) The method according to Claim 13 further comprising:
retrieving another element;
determining a type for the another element;
subsequent to a determination that the element type is a processing instruction:
determining a target for the element;
determining an instruction for the element; and,

creating a row of the relational database that includes the identifier, the
sequence identifier for the node, an element name, the target, the element type, and the
instruction;

subsequent to a determination that the element type is a comment:
determining text of the comment; and,
creating a row of the relational database that includes the identifier, the
sequence identifier for the node, an element name, the comment, and the element type; and,

subsequent to a determination that the element type is a pcdata text:
determining how many times this element type has been encountered;

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determining text of the pCDATA text; and,

creating a row of the relational database that includes the identifier, the sequence identifier for the node, an element name, the element type, an indication of the number of times this element type has been encountered, and the text; and,

subsequent to a determination that the element type is a cdata text:

determining how many times this element type has been encountered;

determining text of the cdata text; and,

creating a row of the relational database that includes the identifier, the sequence identifier for the node, an element name, the element type, an indication of the number of times this element type has been encountered, and the text.

17. (New) A method of forming a relational database from an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document formed of a plurality of nodes, the method comprising:

assigning an identifier to the XML document; and,

creating a row of the relational database that includes the identifier, and a content of one of the plurality of nodes.

18. (New) A relational database comprising:

a database that includes a row containing, content from a node of an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document; wherein the row includes an XML document identifier.

19. (New) The relational database according to Claim 18 wherein said content includes:
a sequence identifier for the node, an XML document name, a processing instruction, a

~~target of the processing instruction, and a node type.~~

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20. (New) The relational database according to Claim 18 wherein said content includes:
a sequence identifier for the node, an XML document name, a comment, and a node type.
21. (New) The relational database according to Claim 18 wherein said content includes:
a sequence identifier for the node, and XML element attributes.
22. (New) The relational database according to Claim 21 wherein said element attributes include:
an element name, an attribute type, and an attribute value.
23. (New) The relational database according to Claim 18 wherein said content includes:
a sequence identifier for the node, an element name, an element type, an indication of the number of times this element type has been encountered, and a text of the element.
24. (New) The relational database according to Claim 23 wherein said element type is pcdata.
25. (New) The relational database according to Claim 23 wherein said element type is cdata.